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EASTRY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1971

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IN OFFICE

1971 - 1972

Chairman of the Council:	Councillor R.J. Maggs.
Chairman of the Public Health Committee:	Councillor E.J. Bishop.
Clerk of the Council:	A. Syrett, Esq., M.B.E., D.M.A., F.C.I.S.
Chief Public Health Inspector:	W.H. Sayers, Esq., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Surveyor:	R.H. Ruston, Esq., A.M.I.Mun.E., M.I.P.H.E.
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Medical Officer of Health:	Dr. Malcolm Smith Harvey, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Deputy Medical Officer of Health:	Dr. James Leslie Gordon, O.B.E., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Major General, Retired).



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EASTRY RURAL DISTRICT

Annual Report of the Medical
Officer of Health for 1971.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

The year represented the lull before the storm of reorganisation and all it has brought in the form of preparatory committees. The introduction of the Social Services Department to take over all the social work of Welfare, Children's and Health departments, while it did not involve the Public Health Department directly gave promise of easier co-ordination of action between authorities. It soon became clear that it was going to take the new Social Services Department a year or more to settle into the new structure and to staff to the necessary level. For this reason one felt thankful that this change had preceded local government and health service reform for one could imagine the chaos that would have been achieved had all changed together. The Council was ready to assist where possible with the provision of special housing under the Chronic Sick and Disabled Persons Act and had hopes that the new Social Services Department would identify such persons. It became clear that this would be a gradual process, including a sample survey by the County staff, and that for the time being information for the Rural District would be limited to cases already known or coming to light through doctors, nurses or voluntary services.

The histogram built on the advance analysis of the census of the Rural District which shows the relative numbers in the 5-year age groups in a community, discloses a surprising dominance of the groups to age 15 and a fairly level proportion of other age groups. As was to be expected the lowest numbers are in the group of 36 - 40 years old persons as the birth rate was particularly low in 1931 - 35. The 65 years plus group shows no concentration of elderly persons, such as would occur if persons retired to live in the district and the rural character of the district is being preserved. It is also of interest that in the proportion of the sexes, males hold their own until ages 55 - 60 and that in the population aged over 55 there are only 750 more females than males, 360 of them being aged 75 years or over.

This report includes a twelve year survey of some causes of death in the rural district, as well as the usual statistics. It also includes information supplied by the Chief Public Health Inspector.

MALCOLM S. HARVEY

Medical Officer of Health.

THE
HISTORY OF
THE
CITY OF
NEW YORK

FROM THE
FUNDING OF THE CITY
TO THE PRESENT

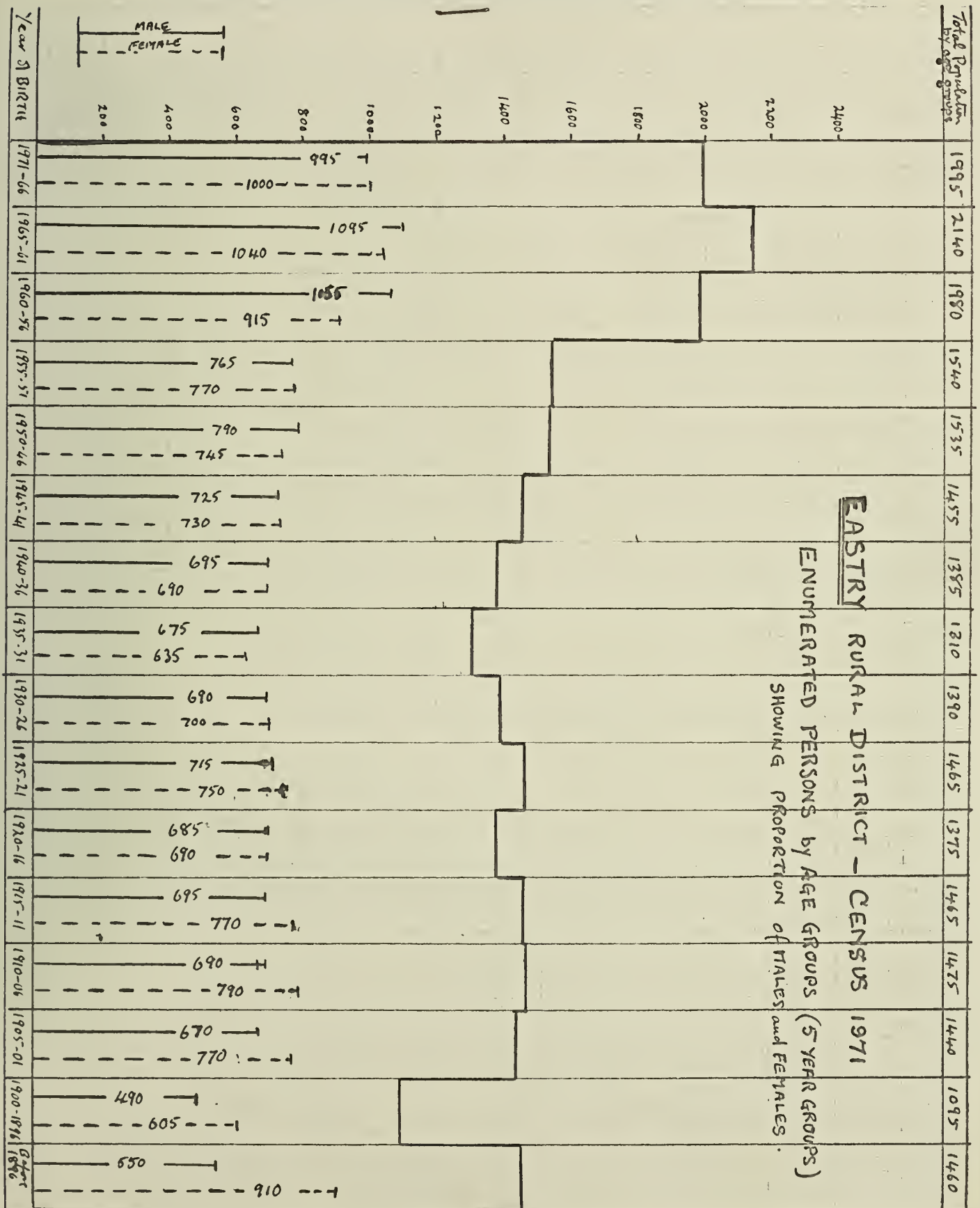
The history of the City of New York, from the founding of the city to the present, is a story of growth and change. The city was founded in 1624 by the Dutch, and was known as New Amsterdam. It was a small, remote settlement, but it grew rapidly as more people came to live there. In 1664, the city was taken over by the British, and was renamed New York. The city continued to grow, and by the 18th century it was one of the largest and most important cities in the world. The city was the center of the American Revolution, and it was here that the Declaration of Independence was signed. The city has since become a global city, and it is one of the most important cities in the world today.

The city has a rich and diverse history, and it is a city that has shaped the world. The city has been the home of many great leaders, and it has been the center of many great events. The city has a unique character, and it is a city that is full of life and energy. The city is a city that is always changing, and it is a city that is always growing. The city is a city that is full of opportunity, and it is a city that is full of hope.

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VITAL STATISTICS.

The population of the district increased by 550 persons to 24,760 on the Mid-Year figure. A chart showing the age distribution is given, based on the preliminary analysis of the 1971 census. It will be some months before this information will be available on a Parish basis:-



Live Births totalled 365 (184 males, 181 females). Seven per-cent of these births were illegitimate, retaining our position as at a lower rate than that for England & Wales (8%).

The crude birth rate was 14.7 per 1,000 population.

There were 5 stillbirths, close to the expected rate. Infant Deaths totalled 11 of which 3 occurred between age 1 month and 1 year and 8 occurred in the first week of life.

These casualties in the first week of life along with the still-births gave a Perinatal Mortality of 35 per 1,000 live and stillbirths, above the figure of 22 for England & Wales.

The overall Infant Mortality Rate was 30.

While the fluctuation of this rate to a high figure this year must be observed, if it is set against the trend for past years it does not disturb the average incidence. In the first 5 years of the 60's the average was 9 infant deaths per annum, and in the second 5 years was 7. The incidence in the first two years of the 70's remains at 7.

The total deaths in 1971 numbered 390 (179 males, 211 females). The percentage occurring age 75 and over was 42% in the males and 64% in the females. The crude death rate was 15.8 per 1,000 population.

Adjustment of birth rate and death rate for the population age content corrected the Birth rate from 14.7 to 16.6 (England & Wales 16), and the Death rate from 15.8 to 11.2 (England & Wales 11.6). The District is therefore in general fairly average in its vital statistics.

Causes of Death are considered later in the Report.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Total	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15+	
Measles	35	89	3	-	127	4	51	65	5	2	
Whooping Cough	5	-	8	-	13	-	10	3	-	-	
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	10	10	-	1	5	4	-	
Acute Meningitis	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	
	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Total	Under 5	5-9	10-14	15-44	45-64	65+
Pulmonary T.B.	-	5	3	1	9	-	4	1	-	-	3
Non-Pulm. T.B.	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1

The Tuberculosis register at the beginning and the end of 1971 was as shown:-

	<u>Respiratory</u>	Male	Female	<u>Non-Respiratory</u>	Male	Female	Total
Beginning of 1971.		41	33		8	3	85
Close of 1971.		45	34		9	3	91

There is a further comment on Tuberculosis under "Causes of Death".

The unusual incidence of pulmonary tuberculosis in young children was the result of contact through an educational unit with an unsuspecting case of tuberculosis. This drew attention to the importance of routine X-ray of persons employed in the care or supervision of children, a policy which Kent Education Committee accepts. But even with such a routine we depend on the primary care of the family doctor to identify and notify occurrences in the three year interval as in this event.

An outbreak of scarlet fever involved one of the Children's Homes in the district during October. Enquiries disclosed that there was an increased prevalence of sore throat throughout East Kent, but only slightly above that expected by the family doctors at this time of year. The infection in the Children's Home was suppressed by general penicillin oral therapy, but showed a slight recrudescence in November. The family doctor concerned maintained a firm control on the situation assisted by a high standard of hygiene in the Home and help from the Public Health Department was not required.

The question of assistance to deal with the disposal of incontinence pads was raised by a householder who cared for an elderly bedfast incontinent relative. The County Health Department confirmed that as they supply such incontinence pads, they will also supply plastic bags for the soiled pads and arrange for the sealed bags to be collected with the household refuse, where household destruction is not found possible. The same will apply to liners for incontinence pants where there is difficulty in disposal. Risk to public hygiene is avoided by firm sealing of the plastic bag.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

1971 Total Deaths	DEATHS BY CAUSE	MALES						FEMALES					
		By Age Groups						By Age Groups					
		All	Under 1	1-14	15- 64	65- 74	75+	All	Under 1	1-14	15- 64	65- 74	75+
1	Measles	-						1		1			
1	Malignant Buccal Cavity.	1			1			-					
8	Neoplasms. Stomach.	5			1	3	1	3				1	2
15	" Intestine.	9			6		3	6			2	3	1
12	" Lung & Bronchus.	9			3	5	1	3			2	1	
2	" Breast.	-						2			1		1
2	" Prostate.	2				2		-					
1	" Leukaemia.	-						1				1	
17	Other Malignant Neoplasms.	8			4	2	2	9			3	5	1
1	Benign & Unspecified Neoplasms.	1				1		-					
4	Diabetes Mellitus.	2				1	1	2			1	1	
1	Other Endocrine Diseases.	-						1				1	
2	Anemias.	2				1	1	-					
1	Mental Disorders.	1					1						
4	Other Diseases of Nervous System.	3			1	2		1					1
1	Chronic Rheumatic Disease.	-						1			1		
3	Hypertensive Disease.	2					2	1					1
90	Ischaemic Heart Disease.	58			15	16	27	32			5	8	19
41	Other Forms of Heart Disease.	2			1		1	39			1	2	36
65	Cerebrovascular Disease.	25			1	6	18	40			3	10	27
27	Other Diseases of Circulatory System.	5				2	3	22				5	17
36	Pneumonia.	11			1	3	7	25			1	7	17
12	Bronchitis/Emphysema.	10	1		2	4	3	2					2
5	Other Diseases of Resp. System.	2			1	1		3	1		1		1
3	Peptic Ulcer.	-						3			1		2
1	Cirrhosis of Liver.	-						1			1		
2	Other Diseases of Digestive System.	2				2		-					
1	Nephritis/Nephrosis.	1				1		-					
1	Hyperplasia of Prostate.	1					1	-					
5	Other Diseases of Genito Urinary System.	2				1	1	3				1	2
2	Congenital Anomalies.	2				1	1	-					
4	Birth Injury, Difficult Labour.	3	3					1	1				
4	Other causes of Perinatal Mort.	3	3					1	1				
3	Symptoms & Ill Defined Conditions.	1					1	2	1				1
3	Motor Vehicle Accidents.	2			1	1	-	1					1
5	All other accidents.	2		1			1	3					3
3	Suicide & Self Inflicted Injury.	2			1	1		1			1		
1	All other External Causes.	-						1			1		
390	TOTAL:	179	7	1	39	56	76	211	4	1	25	46	135

Some causes of death in the Rural District have been considered over the period of the last twelve years, with a view to determining whether there is any marked variation from the rest of England and Wales in local mortality.

Chest Diseases.

Respiratory diseases excluding Influenzal deaths but including pneumonia, bronchitis and emphysema, asthma and other respiratory diseases, were over the twelve year period responsible for a death rate of 19.3 per 10,000 population, somewhat higher than the most recent occurrence for England & Wales (1971) of 15 per 10,000. The rate for the five years 1968 - 71 was 23.2 in Eastry Rural District. This is influenced by the age distribution of the population which includes hospital units with a high proportion of elderly, as 46% of the deaths from this group of illness was from pneumonia in persons aged 75 years and over.

Respiratory Tuberculosis has declined as a cause of death since the middle 60's and no deaths have been attributed to this cause since 1967. Relating this to notification of new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, the overall rate of notification for the twelve years was 3.23 per 10,000 population. But from 1960 - 64 it was 5 per 10,000, from 1965 - 67 it was 2.4 per 10,000 and from 1968 onwards only 1.74 per 10,000, with the latter corresponding to the national experience of 1.77 per 10,000 for 1971. It is reasonable to state that a disease which was once the shadow over miners is now contained in this district.

Lung & Bronchus Cancer: The incidence of deaths from this cause calculated over the twelve year period has kept pace with the national rate which for 1971 was 6.3 per 10,000 persons. In this group we see a variation over the twelve years in the Rural District which shows a steady rise in incidence of 3.8 per 10,000 in the first four years, 6.04 in the middle four years and 6.36 in the last four years.

Ischaemic Heart Disease has a higher rate in the Rural District because of long stay hospitals in the area. The rate is also influenced by changes in classification of such causes over the twelve year period. Thus the rate was 22.7 per 10,000 from 1960 - 67 and 35.4 per 10,000 from 1968 - 71. The latter is well above the national figure of 29.3. In this group 53.4% of local deaths occur under age 75 years of which 37% are male and 16% females. This is a group of causes of death in males which calls for attention and for a policy of health education directed at the early middle aged male to develop a way of life that meets stress, and controls overweight, with controlled exercise and regard for health.

Other Causes of Death:

Motor vehicle accidents reached their peak as a cause of death in the middle four years, accounting for 13 deaths from 1960-63, 21 deaths in 1964-67 and 15 deaths in 1968-71, the corresponding rates per 10,000 population being 1.45, 2.2 and 1.7. The rate for England & Wales in 1971 was 1.4 per 10,000.

Suicides show an increase over the period under review. Taken in four year periods there were nine in 1960 - 63, seven in 1964 - 67 and twelve in 1968 - 71. Taken in six year periods the incidence was twelve for the first six years and sixteen for the second. The overall rate for the review period was 1 per 10,000, close enough to the national rate.

Peptic Ulcer as a cause of death showed a surprisingly high incidence for the district, three times higher than would be expected from the national rate. Over the twelve years it represented a rate of 1.5 per 10,000 and over the last four years 1.7 per 10,000 against the national rate of approximately 0.6 per 10,000. Over the last four years the distribution of deaths from this cause under 75 years to those aged 75 years and over was 8 : 9, and the calculated rate per 10,000 for those aged 75 years and over was 15.5 per 10,000 against a national figure (1969) of 6.2. There was a similarly high rate in the 65 - 74 age group of 6 against a national rate of 1.6. The number of such deaths in the 45 - 64 age group was too low to make a comparison except to note that it was higher than the expected rate. The question remains as to whether there is a higher death rate from peptic ulcer in this district or whether there is some hidden artifact in these observations. The deaths recorded in 1971 were in widows of men whose occupations were stressful (miners and commercial travellers) to the digestion.

HOUSING

Formal action taken under the Housing Act, 1957.

No. of houses reported under Section 16	10
(i.e. not capable of being rendered fit at a reasonable expense)	
No. of Demolition Orders made	5
No. of Closing Orders made	6
No. of houses demolished	8
No. of houses, subject to Demolition or Closing Orders in which proposals under Section 24 for repair and improve- ment were accepted. ...	10
No. of houses, subject to Demolition or Closing Orders, repaired, improved and made fit for habitation and Orders revoked. ...	5
No. of houses under Demolition or Closing Orders remaining occupied at end of 1971. ...	16
No. of cases of Overcrowding recorded in 1971	2
No. of cases of Overcrowding remaining unresolved	1

HOUSE IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Since 1954 the Council have actively encouraged a policy of voluntary house improvements with the aid of Grants and by the end of 1971, Discretionary and Standard Grants had been approved for a total of 1,162 dwellings; of this number, 480 were owner-occupied.

Summary of Grants approved during the year 1971

Improvement Grants

These grants cover a wide range of works with an ordinary maximum grant of £1,000 and are made at the Council's discretion. The maximum grant was approved in THIRTEEN cases.

No. of dwellings for which grants approved	-	44
Estimated total cost:	£86,178	(Average - £1,958 per dwelling)
Improvements:	£55,003	(Average - £1,250 per dwelling)
Repairs as improvements:	£11,663	(Average - £265 per dwelling)
Other works:	£19,512	(Average - £443 per dwelling)
Approved expense of works:	£66,666	(Average - £1,515 per dwelling)
Grants approved:	£29,495	(Average - £670 per dwelling).

Standard Grants

These grants are for the provision of basic facilities only and, provided certain conditions are met, the Council cannot refuse a valid application. The normal maximum grant is £200, with a higher limit of £450 where a bathroom is provided by building-on or by converting an outbuilding - installation of septic tank or cesspool drainage, or bringing piped water supply into a house for the first time.

No. of dwellings for which grants approved - 32

In four cases the application qualified for the higher limit grant.

In both forms of grant, improvement works included:-

<u>Provision of bathrooms</u>	-	68
(a) by conversion of existing rooms	- 44	
(b) by building-on	- 17	
(c) by conversion of outbuildings	- 7	
<u>Internal Water Closets</u>	-	63
<u>Wash-hand Basins</u>	-	63
<u>Hot Water Systems</u>	-	65
By means of:		
(a) Solid Fuel	- 19	
(b) Electricity	- 27	
(c) Gas	- 12	
(d) Oil	- 7	
<u>Drainage Systems</u>	-	18
<u>Damp-proofing</u>	-	10

WATER SUPPLY.

Of 9005 dwelling houses in the district, nine only are now without a piped water supply.

Fifteen samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination from private wells and three sources were found to be unfit.

Five samples were taken from main supplies and all were reported as satisfactory. (From Food Factories - 3
Manston Airport - 1
Licensed Premises - 1)

SWIMMING POOLS.

The Local Authority have no legislative control over the use of swimming pools, but advice and guidance on their operation is generally welcomed and ten pools were regularly visited when in use. A total of twenty-four visits were made at which the waters were tested for clarity, chlorine content and alkalinity.

DRAINAGE AND SANITATION.

All caravans at Foxhunter Caravan Park are now connected to the sewer.

Fifteen pail closets were abolished during the year and the approximate number of dwelling houses in the district with pail closets at the end of 1971 was - 188.

CARAVANS AND CAMPING.

There are seven commercial Holiday caravan sites in the district licensed to accommodate 831 caravans. There are also two Residential sites licensed for 68 caravans. Licences have been issued for four individual residential caravans.

No new caravan site licences were issued during the year.

One site licence was issued for tented camping (70 tents).

AGRICULTURAL (SAFETY, HEALTH & WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956.

55 Visits were made during the year - there were no shortages of note.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

Premises registered as at 31/12/71:

Offices	-	32
Retail Shops	-	67
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	-	5
Catering Establishments	-	11
Fuel Storage Depots	-	1

Shops & Offices.

During the year infringements of the Act and Regulations found were as follows:-

Inadequate supply of drinking water	...	...	1
Overcrowding	...	...	1
Lack of cleanliness	...	...	5
Inadequate temperature	...	...	1
Inadequate guarding of machinery	...	...	2
Absence of thermometer	...	...	3
Insufficient or unsuitable lighting	...	...	5
Worn and unsafe floors	...	...	1
Absence of prescribed First Aid Materials	...	...	7
Unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation	...	...	1
Absence of Abstract of the Act	...	...	3
Inadequate washing facilities	...	...	1

Three accidents were notified during the year.

FACTORIES ACT.

Part I of the Act

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors.)

Premises. (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	58	65	2	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (excluding out-workers' Premises).	-	-	-	-

Outworkers

Four outworkers were notified making wearing apparel. All were visited and found to be satisfactory.

FOOD.

Food premises in the Rural District which are subject to the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, are as follows:-

Wholesalers:	...	...	...	...	...	3
Retail Food Shops:	...	...	...	...	...	118
Hotels, Cafes, Restaurants, Canteens:	...	...	...	...	...	63
Licensed Premises:	...	...	...	...	...	62
Poulterers:	...	...	...	...	...	2

Premises registered under Section 16, Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

For the sale of ice-cream:	...	...	...	...	88
Fish Fryers:	...	...	...	...	3
For the Manufacture of Sausages:	...	...	...	...	12
For Ham Boiling:	...	...	...	...	13

There are 43 registered Milk Distributors and all milk is processed and bottled outside the district.

Poultry:

There are two small poultry processing premises within the district processing approximately 2,500 turkeys and 16,000 broilers during a year. Slaughtering takes place at irregular times and intervals so that only limited examination of birds by Inspectors is practicable but there is a general oversight at routine visits to ensure that an effective system of scrutiny is maintained by the personnel engaged.

Contraventions reported to the Public Health Committee:

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960. Article 7(1).

In spite of a warning the previous year, the sorting and trimming of Brussels Sprouts at domestic premises was again found to be taking place. Proceedings were authorised.

Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

Bottle of milk - chalk deposit	-	Warning letter sent.
Bread containing mineral oil	-	" " "
Baby food - mould due to punctured can	-	" " "

Ice-cream:

During the year eleven samples of ice-cream were taken for bacteriological examination.

Results:

<u>Grade:</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>II</u>	<u>III</u>	<u>IV</u>
	11	-	-	-

The Imported Food Regulations, 1968.

Manston Airport:

Total weight of imported foods: ... 879 Tons.

NOISE.

Complaints received during the year related to:-

Pop music	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Generator operating temporary traffic lights							1
Grain drying plant	...	...	...	...			1
Electronic bird scarers		...	...	...			1
General noise from engineering works					...		1
Foxhound kennels	...	...	...	...			1

HAIRDRESSERS & BARBERS:

There are twelve Hairdressers and Barbers in the area to whom regular visits are made to ensure compliance with the Council's Byelaws. These byelaws are for the purpose of securing the cleanliness of premises on which a hairdressers or barber's business is carried on and of the instruments, towels and equipment used therein and the cleanliness of hairdressers and barbers working in such premises in regard to both themselves and their clothing.

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

This is a consolidating Act relating mainly to hours of Closing and Sunday Trading. So far as the welfare of shop assistants is concerned, it covers Statutory half holidays, meal times and the hours of employment of young persons. The District Council are responsible for functions under the Act under a delegation agreement with the County Council. Sixty-one visits were made but no serious contraventions were observed.

CLEAN AIR:

Complaint was received of smoke nuisance from burning refuse at a Refuse Tip situated within the Rural District and occupied by a neighbouring authority.

RODENT AND INSECT PESTS.

Rodent
Inspections - 1971

Premises Inspected.	Agricultural.	Non-Agricultural.	Total.
(a) As the result of notification.	38	222	260
(b) In the course of survey.	344	298	642
(c) No. found to be infested with rats or mice.	118	227	345

Treatments - 1971

	Agricultural.	Non-Agricultural.	Total.
Properties treated by the Council's Operative.	61	201	262

Insect infestations dealt with during the year were as follows:-

Fleas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Cockroaches	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Flies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Ants (in hospitals)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

Requests for assistance resulted in the destruction of 45 wasps nests.
